

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 22, 2009. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10 are in the application, with Claims 5, 6 and 8 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejection applied against them, and with Claim 10 having been newly added. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,409,401 (Petteruti). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 generally concern printing image information from a storage device attached to a recording medium. According to aspects of Claims 1, 7 and 9, user authentication information is input. There is a determination of a range of image information to be printed, based in part on the input user authentication information. An image is printed based on the determined range of image information.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to tailor the range of content to be read from a storage device and printed in accordance with authentication of a specified user, even though a recording medium may be shared by several different users.

For example, in one non-limiting example embodiment described in the specification, data of a software specification may be stored in the storage device. A user enters an authentication key such as a password. Different users are granted access to a different range of data of the software specification based on the user's authentication key. Thus, for example, a

general user may be allowed access only to a section regarding general functions of the software, whereas a specific user may be granted access to all of the source code.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes an input unit which inputs image information including first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information to be stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium. A printer prints an image on the recording medium to which the storage device is attached. The image is based on the first image information. In addition, a writing unit writes the second image information to the storage device attached to the recording medium. The apparatus further includes a controller which controls the printer to print the image based on the first image information on the recording medium, and controls the writing unit to write the second image information to the storage device along with authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels. A range of second image information that is printable differs at each level. A reading unit reads the second image information stored in the storage device attached to the recording medium. Additionally, the apparatus includes a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information. The controller determines a range of the second image information to be printed based on the authentication information stored in the storage device and the user authentication information input by the authentication information input unit, and controls the printer to print an image based on the determined range of the second image information.

Independent Claims 7 and 9 are directed to a method and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 1, 7 and 9, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) inputting user authentication information, (ii) determining a range of image information to be printed based on the user authentication information, and (iii) printing an image based on the determined range of image information.

As understood by Applicants, Petteruti is directed to a portable printer capable of printing on media and encoding information onto RFID circuits coupled to the media. See Petteruti, Abstract. A printer controller receives commands and data from a host terminal, and determines whether the commands and data are valid. If the commands and data are not valid, the command is ignored. If the commands and data are valid, the printer controller reads an RFID tag address of an RFID circuit, encodes the RFID circuit with the received data, and reports success or error of the encoding to the host terminal. See Petteruti, Figure 3.

Page 3 of the Office Action asserts that Petteruti's "RF tag information, such as product name, description, weight, or ID number" corresponds to level information of a user, which is used to determine a range of data to be printed. Page 3 of the Office Action also appears to equate Petteruti's "product price, type, or other identifier, product information, quantity, or location, and in a baggage ticket, flight information, owner, or baggage identifier" with a range of content to be printed. Office Action, page 3.

However, the cited portions of Petteruti simply refer to different types of data that may be associated with a command and stored in the RFID tag. See Petteruti, Column 3, lines 30 to 35 and Column 4, lines 48 to 50. Petteruti is not seen to disclose or suggest that these different types of data correspond to authentication information for authenticating a particular user, much less that a range of data to be read from the tag varies according to this data.

In that regard, to the extent that Petteruti reads data from the RFID circuit, Petteruti is not seen to input or read image information including first image information to be printed on a recording medium and second image information stored in a storage device which is attached to the recording medium.

Since Petteruti does not disclose or suggest determining a range of image information to be printed based on the user authentication information, it logically follows that Petteruti also does not disclose or suggest printing an image on a recording medium based on the determined range of image information. In that regard, as seen by Applicants, Petteruti is not seen to disclose printing an image based on data stored in the RFID tag at all, much less printing a particular range of data from the RFID tag based on authentication of a user.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 7 and 9 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 10 is directed to an image processing apparatus. The apparatus includes a printer which prints an image based on image information, and a reading unit which reads the image information. The image information is stored in a storage device attached to a recording medium. The storage device stores the image information and authentication information corresponding to each of a plurality of levels, and a range of image information that is printable differs at each level. Additionally, the apparatus includes a user authentication information input unit which inputs user authentication information. A controller determines a range of the image information to be printed based on the authentication information stored in the storage device and the user authentication information input by the authentication information input unit, and controls the printer to print an image based on the determined range of the image information.

Allowance of Claim 10 is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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